

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021462
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EPA-01 SP-02 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06
SS-15 DOE-11 INT-05 CU-04 HA-05 BIB-01 /120 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN/EUR/RPE:WDAMERON:EF
APPROVED BY IO/IEP:DHCOHN
IO/IEP:LKAHN (DRAFT)
OES/ENP:LGRANT (DRAFT)
OES/ENP/EN:DRKING (DRAFT)
EUR/RPM: JKORNBLUM (DRAFT)
EPA: ECOTSWORTH (SUBS)
S/P:PKAPLAN

-----036416 262156Z /14

P 262109Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, SENV, CSCE, SZ, YO, UR, US

SUBJECT: ECE 33RD SESSION AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
ENVIRONMENT

REF: A. GENEVA 955; B. E/ECE/936; C. E/ECE/937;
D. STATE 280014 (77); E. BELGRADE 547

1. WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING AND AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH WITH
STANOVNIK(REF A) PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT US VIEWS ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 021462

POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING AND BREZHNEV PROPOSALS IN
GENERAL. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH BELGRADE (REF E) THAT IT
WOULD BE USEFUL TO HINT TO SOVIETS AND TO STANOVNIK THAT
STATE-OF-PLAY IN BELGRADE MIGHT AFFECT OUR APPROACH TO
THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. WE DO NOT WANT
TO LINK THE TWO FORMALLY, BUT PROD THE SOVIETS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, AT LUNCHEON AMBASSADOR SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR STANOVNIK'S FINE JOB TO DATE, NOTING THAT 33RD SESSION WILL HAVE TO MAKE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. AMBASSADOR COULD THEN SAY THAT U.S. IS SERIOUSLY STUDYING POSSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING, LOOKS FORWARD TO ADDITIONAL WORK WITHIN THE ECE, AND THAT PROGRESS ON ALL CSCE RELATED TOPICS DEPENDS ON PROGRESS IN CURRENT BELGRADE DISCUSSIONS. UNTIL OUTCOME OF BELGRADE CSCE TOPICS BECOMES CLEARER, U.S. WOULD PREFER NOT TO TAKE ANY FIRM DECISIONS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING OR TIMING THEREOF.

3. BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL REVIEW OF REF B, WE CONSIDER THAT CASE PRESENTED THEREIN IS STRONGEST FOR INCLUSION OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (TBAP) AS TOPIC AT POSSIBLE MEETING. INDEED, ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PROPOSED TOPICS ARE UNCONVINCING. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE MISSION SHOULD INDICATE OUR PREFERENCE FOR NARROWING PROPOSAL TO ONE-TOPIC MEETING AS MOST NEARLY FULFILLING CRITERIA AGREED BY ECE (PARA. 3, REF C). WE RECOGNIZE THAT IF EC-9 CONSENSUS FAVORS INCLUSION OF LOW WASTE TOPIC, WE MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT IT, BUT, FOR PRESENT, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SIGNAL THIS POSSIBILITY. SUGGEST YOU PRESS QUESTION AS TO WHAT COULD BE ADDRESSED IN POLITICAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE CONSIDERATION OF TOPIC, GIVEN PROBLEMS OF PROPRIETARY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 021462

INFORMATION AND FAILURE SO FAR TO DEFINE AREAS OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT.

4. STANOVNIK IS OF COURSE PERSONALLY STRONGLY COMMITTED TO GETTING "TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION" (PARA. 108, REF B) ON AGENDA. HIS PROPOSALS AS TO POSSIBLE AREAS FOR AGREEMENT IMPRESS US AS UNATTAINABLE (E.G., PROPOSALS B, D AND E), TECHNICAL (PROPOSALS A AND C), VAGUE (PROPOSAL F), OR SUBREGIONAL (PROPOSAL G). WE ASSUME OTHER WE COUNTRIES WILL OPPOSE HIS INITIATIVE VERY STRONGLY. YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THOSE COUNTRIES ON GROUNDS OF FAILURE TO MEET CRITERIA.

5. WE THINK IT PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE TO SPECIFY PRECISELY WHAT TYPE OF TBAP AGREEMENT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE. HOWEVER, OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT A CONVENTION SETTING FORTH PRINCIPLES AS ELUCIDATED BY NORWAY IN PARA. 11, REF B AND AT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BY U.S. IN PARA. 18, REF B MIGHT SERVE AS SUITABLE FRAMEWORK. (WE THINK THOSE GUIDELINES MORE LIKELY TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE THAN STANOVNIK PROPOSALS, PARA. 83, REF B.)

6. WITHOUT PREJUDGING ECE 33RD SESSION DECISION; SHOULD SUCH A MEETING BE HELD WE WOULD ASSUME SAEP WOULD BE LOGICAL FORUM FOR PREPARATORY WORK.

PREPARATION WILL BE REQUIRED WHICH WOULD INVOLVE NUMBER OF MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY GROUP(S), POSSIBLE USE OF EXPERT CONSULTANTS, AND CONSIDERABLE SECRETARIAT EFFORT. TIME FRAME IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE, BUT WE CONCUR WITH SECOND OPTION PARA. 17, REF C THAT ONE YEAR WOULD SEEM

TO BE MINIMUM. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD PREFER FOR TACTICAL REASONS TO LEAVE OPEN UNTIL LATER DATES FOR AND DURATION OF MEETING.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 021462

7. MISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT FOUR STAGE MEETING IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND SHOULD DISCOURAGE SELECTED ALLIES FROM AGREEING TO LINK THIS SUBJECT WITH POSSIBILITY FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE.

8. MISSION MAY WISH TO REFER ALSO TO OUR VIEWS OUTLINED EARLIER IN REF D.

9. AT ITS DISCRETION, MISSION MIGHT WISH TO INFORM WESTERN CAUCUS OR SELECTED MEMBERS THEREOF OF APPROACH SET FORTH ABOVE. FYI. GIVEN KNOWN NEGATIVE SENSITIVITIES AMONG CERTAIN WE COUNTRIES TO TBAP ISSUE, WE WISH TO AVOID THEIR RIDING OUR COATTAILS ON POSSIBLE DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN HIGH LEVEL MEETING AND PROGRESS AT BELGRADE. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE SUCH STIFFENING OF WESTERN ALLIES' POSITION THAT ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING WOULD UNNECESSARILY BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY. END FYI. GDS VANCE

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